

POLITICAL PROFITEERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, think back to the late afternoon, early evening of September 11 when several gas stations in northeastern Ohio and across the Midwest and across the country raised their prices of gas to \$4, \$5, \$6 a gallon. Some people would call that war profiteering.

But something else happened in this Chamber in the last 8 weeks, something perhaps not much different that some have called political profiteering.

First, this Congress passed a bailout bill giving the airlines \$15 billion, no strings attached, no sacrifices from airline executives, no assistance for the 100,000 laid-off workers, no dollars for nor push toward any airline safety measures.

Then last week, all in the name of rebuilding the economy that has obviously suffered a blow from September 11, this Chamber voted tax cuts for the richest people in the country, and very little for health care for laid-off workers, very little tax relief for those who need it, most making \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000 a year.

Then this political profiteering reached new heights as this week the United States Trade Representative Bob Zoellick has begun to link fast track legislation, giving the President trade promotion authority, linking that legislation to antiterrorism activities, pointing out that most of us who oppose fast track are indifferent to terrorism, questioning a bit our patriotism, and saying that we really do not share American values if we do not support fast track because that is the way to combat terrorism around the world.

Mr. Speaker, fast track, to be sure, does not embody those American values that our U.S. Trade Representative has indicated. Simply look at the upcoming WTO, World Trade Organization, ministerial in Doha, Qatar. The people in Qatar, where trade ministers from all around the world and prime ministers and leaders from all around the world are converging, the people in Qatar have no freedom of speech, no freedom of assembly, no freedom of religion, as pointed out by the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) in a Dear Colleague she sent around this week; no freedom of association, and in Qatar there are no free elections.

Yet, the World Trade Organization ignored these abuses of personal freedom in selecting Qatar as the host for the World Trade Organization ministerial.

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Qatar's human rights record is not in line with American values, but it is familiar territory for many of corporate America's trading partners. Supporters of fast track say interaction with the developing world spreads democracy.

But watch as we engage developing countries in trade and investment, democratic developing countries are losing ground to dictatorships, to authoritarian developing countries. Democratic nations such as India are losing out to the authoritarian communist nations such as China. Democratic nations such as Taiwan are losing out to autocratic nations such as Indonesia.

In 1989, 57 percent of developing-country exports in manufacturing came from democracies. Since then the share of developing country exports from democracies fell 22 percent. Now 65 percent of developing country exports come from authoritarian countries.

The fact is Western business investors want to go to China, want to go to Indonesia, want to go to countries which are dictatorships because they have docile workforces, authoritarian governments, and they are very predictable for Western business. They do not want to go to India. They do not want to go to Taiwan. They do not want to go to South Korea; and they do not want to stay in this country many times because we have strong environmental laws, because labor unions can organize and bargain collectively, because we have free elections.

Western corporations want to invest in countries that have poor environmental standards, that have below-poverty wages, that have no worker benefits, that have no opportunities to bargain collectively.

As American investment moves to those dictatorships where they do not have the values that we have, where they do not care about the workers and the environment and food safety and all the things that we in this institution have fought for, American working families lose out.

Our trade agreements go to great lengths to protect investors and property rights. But these agreements do not include enforceable provisions to protect workers, either in the United States or abroad.

Ambassador Zoellick's call for a blanket trade authority in the name of patriotism must be recognized for what it is, pure and simple political profiteering. I have watched this country respond to the events of September 11. The right response for American values is to vote no on trade promotion authority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for participating with us in this Special Order this evening to pay tribute to our former colleague, the gentleman from New York's 22nd Congressional District, Gerald B.H. Solomon.

I am pleased at this time to yield to our distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for recognizing me.

This is kind of a solemn occasion. The Speaker, the gentleman in the chair, will be proud to know that Gerald Solomon was born in 1930 in Okeechobee, Florida.

Jerry Solomon grew up to be a fine man, a dedicated Marine, great Member of this body, friend and mentor, sometimes disciplinarian to all of us. I had the privilege of arriving in the House of Representatives when Jerry Solomon had already been here and working with him until he retired. I watched him as he worked on behalf of veterans with a heart that seemed to be just as big as can be; and he believed in freedom, not only for America but for all the world.

Gerald Solomon was always busy on foreign policy matters. He was busy on veterans affairs. He was a strong proponent of a strong defense, but he was also a man with a big heart. And one of the things that would always shine through with Jerry, especially when he was with his beautiful wife, Freda, and his children, was that he was a man who had a heart for family. And that too, I think, to many of us was an inspiration.

This is a tough job; this is a tough place. It is tough on our lives. And to have those colleagues that we have, Jerry Solomon being a perfect example, that can meet all of the demands of this work, and especially the demands of travel that he met with foreign travel in his interests, and remain so thoroughly dedicated, devoted to his wife. And many will remember that you did not have to look much further beyond the reflection of Freda and Gerry's eyes to see the definition of the word adoration. He truly did love his family.

So he helped us in so many ways with his presence, with his commitment, his sense of courage, his dedication, his legislative skills, his good judgment on